

A
P R O P O S A L
FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF
PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, &c.

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PROPOSAL

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT



PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

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P R O P O S A L
FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF
PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS,
IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.
WITH
OCCASIONAL REMARKS.

By the Reverend JOHN JEBB, *K*
Late Fellow of St. Peter's College.
formerly Fellow of Oriel College

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WILKIE, at No. 71, in St. Paul's
Church-Yard. MDCCLXXIV.

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By the Reverend JOHN JERR,
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LONDON:

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IT has frequently been asserted, that the separation of the Orders, the severity of the penalty, in case of non-attendance, together with the requisition of a greater degree of Proficiency in Literature, than is provided for in the Public Lectures of each Society, were the main reasons that occasioned the rejection of the Graces, proposed on the 19th of last April, for the Establishment of

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Public Examinations in the University of
Cambridge.

An opinion also very generally prevailed, that some of the regulations, recommended by the Syndics, would have succeeded, if they had been separately submitted to the suffrages of the Senate.

It should seem therefore that there is sufficient ground to indulge the pleasing expectation, that if such temperaments were proposed, as fully obviated the preceding objections, the plan of the very learned and very able Committee might still be adopted in its most essential parts; and thus the University derive credit, and the nation substantial advantage, from the labours of a set of men, whose acknowledged abilities and respectable station, in a peculiar manner, qualified them for the discharge of their important trust.

With

With this view, a Member of the Academical Senate begs leave to suggest the following modification of the late Committee's scheme. He has carefully consulted some of the most judicious of his friends upon the subject matter of every article: he has endeavoured to draw it up in such a manner, that the whole, taken together, may form one consistent, practicable plan; while at the same time it is so constructed, that the sentiments of the Senate may be separately taken upon each constituent part: in order, that, if necessity require, corrections and amendments may be admitted in every subsequent portion of the Institution, without injury to those that may happen to be previously approved.

It is his intention to proceed upon the following Principle, viz.

That although the youth of this place have, in general, sufficient means of in-

formation afforded to them by the public Tutors, yet that something is wanted to secure a proper degree of attention to the customary course of College Lectures*.

With a view of effecting this desirable purpose, it is proposed,

I. That

* It may be expected, that, as this is a fundamental principle, I should endeavour to establish it by a proof from facts.

But to enter into such a detail as would be necessary for this purpose, cannot certainly be a pleasing employment to an academical man.

And as what I reluctantly inserted, relative to this subject, in a former publication, has never been controverted, I will spare myself the disagreeable recital.

Upon the present occasion it will be sufficient to observe, that the Friends of the University have frequently lamented the prevalence of the Evil I allude to, viz. an almost universal inattention to every species of useful literature, accompanied with an increasing spirit of dissipation and extravagance, in all the orders of our youth.

And,

I. That a Public Examination of such Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners, as have been admitted since the Friday, next after the Commencement 1774, or shall be admitted before or upon the Friday, next after the Commencement 1775, be held in the Senate-House, at some time, hereafter to be appointed, in the year 1776.

II. That a Public Examination of such Pensioners and Sizars, as have been admitted since the Friday, next after the Commencement 1774, or shall be admitted before or upon the Friday, next after the Commencement 1775, be held in the Senate-House, at some time, hereafter to be appointed, in the year 1776.

III. That

And, that there appears to be a very general conviction in the Nation, that these disorders, whether they derive themselves from a relaxed state of discipline, or the excesses of parental indulgence, require the introduction of an Institution, more adapted to the present exigencies, than any hitherto established in either University.

III. That these Examinations be united, so as to constitute one Examination of all the Students admitted as above.

IV. That this Examination be held upon the third Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in November 1776, from nine to twelve in the mornings, and from two to five in the afternoons of the Monday and Tuesday.

V. That each person attending this Examination be examined in the Latin and Greek Classics, and the Elements of Geometry and Algebra.

VI. That, at this Examination, the Examiners hereafter to be appointed declare, in a writing to be delivered to the Vice-Chancellor, which of the persons, then examined, appear upon the whole to be the best scholars, not distinguishing more than a third part, and placing the persons so distinguished
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according to their respective order of merit; and that such declaration be published by the Senior Proctor to the Senate, at the next following Congregation, and copies thereof sent by him to each College.

VII. That each Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, admitted as above, be subjected to one other Public Examination, and that such Examination be held upon the fourth Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in November 1777, from nine to twelve in the mornings, and from two to five in the afternoons of the Monday and Tuesday.

VIII. That each person, attending this Examination, be examined in Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, Natural Philosophy, and Modern History.

IX. That

IX. That at this second Examination of the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners, in November 1777, the Examiners hereafter to be appointed declare, in a writing to be delivered to the Vice-Chancellor, which of the persons, then examined, appear upon the whole to be the best scholars, not distinguishing more than a third part, and placing the persons so distinguished according to their respective order of merit— That such declaration be published by the Vice-Chancellor to the Senate at the next following Congregation, and copies thereof transmitted by him to the Chancellor of the University, and sent to each College.

X. That persons changing their Order to become Fellow-Commoners be, in the Examinations, classed with such as are of the same standing with themselves by admission.

XI. That

XI. That any Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner admitted as above, and having been resident, who shall absent himself from either of the preceding Examinations, and any Pensioner and Sizar, in the same circumstances, who shall absent himself from the first, without sufficient Reason, shall be publickly admonished, or subjected to such other Academical censure, short of Rustication, as the Vice-Chancellor and the two Proctors, or the Vice-Chancellor with one Proctor, shall think the case deserves—That a Reason, certified to the Vice-Chancellor by the Master or Locum-tenens of his College, and approved by the major part of the Vice-Chancellor and Heads then resident, be deemed sufficient to excuse any person's absence from a whole Examination—and that a Reason, approved by the major part of the seven Examiners, hereafter to be appointed, be deemed sufficient to excuse any

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person's

person's absence from any part of an Examination.

XII. That a similar course be observed in the case of all the Academic Youth, who shall be admitted in each succeeding year.

XIII. That seven Examiners, Members of the Senate, or Bachelors of Law or Physic, be annually appointed from the several Colleges, in the Order of the Cycle of Opponents in Divinity : Except that Trinity-Hall be added to King's College, and that the mode of appointing its own Examiners be left to each College.

XIV. That King's College shall appoint an Examiner each of the first two years, and Trinity-Hall the third year, and so always—That where three Colleges are laid together to provide one Examiner, they have the appointment according to Seniority of Foundation

dation—and that the seven Examiners, so appointed, be presented to the Vice-Chancellor, on or before the eleventh of June every year.

XV. That at the first Examination in November 1776, all the seven Examiners examine such Students as shall then attend—That at the Examinations in November 1777, the two Senior of the seven examine the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners of the Senior year, the other five, the Students of the Junior year, and so always.

XVI. That besides the seven appointed Examiners, any Member of the Senate, or Bachelor of Law or Physic, be at liberty to examine.

XVII. That each of the seven Examiners receive a Gratuity of ten Guineas, to be paid out of the University Chest—That every Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, who shall be admitted

after the 12th of November 1774, pay at his admission two guineas, and every Pensioner half a guinea, towards replacing in the chest such sums as shall be thence so issued—And that all persons already admitted, and subjected to the above-mentioned Examinations, be charged with the same payments at the close of the present quarter.

XVIII. That the Moneys so charged at the admissions of Noblemen, Fellow-Commoners, and Pensioners, be accounted for to the Vice-Chancellor, on the Saturdays, next before the days of Examination, by their respective Tutors, who shall at the same times deliver lists of such of their Pupils, as are to be examined, with the dates of their admissions.

If the preceding Plan were put in execution, it is humbly conceived, that the Fellow-Commoners and Pensioners
may

may continue to attend the same Public Lectures—That it would correspond with the general course, given at present in every College, during the first and second years of residence—and that it would not materially interfere with the Scheme of Examinations now established at St. John's College*.

But in order that the advantages, which I apprehend would result from the establishment of the late Committee's
Regu-

* This last is a circumstance, which, without a compliment to a gentleman, who certainly merits none at my hands, is unquestionably deserving of some attention. For, as, on the one side, it is not reasonable that the University should decline embracing a measure, that is likely to be attended with general advantage, because it may, perhaps, render less necessary Dr. Powell's merely local institution; so on the other, it is but fair and equitable, that the scheme of literary discipline, adopted by the University, should be constructed in such a manner, as not to run counter to the Doctor's long established particular course, which has hitherto been very successful, unless the most evident necessity should so require.

Regulations, as modified in the foregoing pages, may be more clearly discerned, I will subjoin some observations in a regular series, upon such of the preceding Propositions, as seem to require illustration.

I. I trust that there is no occasion to begin these observations with a demonstration of the expediency of the proposed institution, in the case of youth of superior rank and fortune. I will only add, to what I have already observed in my former publication on this subject, that it is not merely the *residence* of noble youth, which gives a lustre to this Seminary; nor is it the recollection of the pleasurable scenes they have enjoyed here, which endears the remembrance of it to them at a future period. It is only by the consciousness that we have contributed to the forming of their minds to a love of virtue, and a love of science, that we can be enabled hereafter to recognize our

relation to them with real sentiments of satisfaction. And it is the full conviction on their part, that they have derived from us the principles of sound morality, the rudiments of useful knowledge, that can alone induce them to regard us with a reciprocal esteem.

II. As the Bachelor's degree, on account of its distance from the time of admission, does not seem to furnish a sufficient incentive to youthful Emulation, at the season when such a principle would be of greatest use, the institution of at least one examination of the Pensioners and Sizars, at an earlier period, appears to be an expedient, and indeed a very necessary, measure. Further arguments in favour of such an institution may be collected from what I have noticed, with respect to the present mode of education at Cambridge, in the third and fourth editions of my Remarks on that subject.

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The judicious Resolution, cited below*,
will in all probability produce the intended

* *Declaration published by the Vice-Chancellor,
May 20, 1774.*

(C O P Y .)

“ WHEREAS it appears to be the general opinion of those, who have of late years examined the candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, that such candidates have applied too much to the abstruser parts of Mathematics, neglecting the study of Natural Philosophy, and even of the Elements of Mathematics; which opinion prevailed also among the Syndics, appointed to deliberate upon the Grace which passed the Senate on the 17th of February last, as is manifest from the 19th of their resolutions :

“ The VICE-CHANCELLOR takes the liberty of desiring the Tutors of every College to communicate to their Pupils the following Resolution, which he is authorized to say, has been agreed upon by those persons, who are likely to be the PROCTORS and MODERATORS of the ensuing year.

“ THAT unless a person be found to have a competent knowledge of Euclid's Elements, and of the plainer parts of the four branches of Natural
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tended effect. It may be the means of substituting substantial Science in the place of that vain semblance of it, which, of late, has so much disgraced us. But as it provides no remedy for that early dissipation, which the utmost diligence of the Tutors hath hitherto been unable to prevent, the reasons for introducing a more powerful call to attention, than subsists at present, still remain in full force *.

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Philosophy, no attention will be paid to his other mathematical knowledge. And that in every branch of science, the clearest and most accurate knowledge, rather than the most extensive, will be regarded as the best claim to academical honours."

* It may be further observed under this head, that although very valuable improvements in useful literature may be expected to flow from the Institution in question; yet that the means of attaining these very improvements are intended to be subservient also to objects still more noble and important. Idleness is the root of every evil. But the youth, whose opening powers of reason are invited to unfold themselves by the call of

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It is also submitted to the judgment of those gentlemen, who are apprehensive that the Interests of Mathematics will be affected by any alterations in our System, whether the application of the Pensioner and Sizar to the course, prescribed for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, can possibly be endangered by an Examination, intended to take place above two years before the Examination for such degree, and of which the elements of Algebra and Euclid are to form a part.

III. I have already hinted to my readers, that the separation of the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners from the Pensioners and Sizars, in the scheme of Examinations proposed by the Syndicate, was considered as a material and fundamental objection against the whole institution.

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Emulation, and who is for the most part usefully employed, will in all probability be temperate, frugal, and discreet, with respect to every other part of his demeanour.

It was urged in favour of such separation, that the views and pursuits of the students of the higher orders being materially different from those of inferior degree, it was reasonable that their course of study should be also different.

It was further maintained, that many students of family and fortune would be discouraged by the too probable ill success of their labours; inasmuch as they must foresee, that in most instances they would be out-done by those persons, in whose case the call of necessity would be added to the incentive of Emulation.

On the other side, it was asserted, that a separation of the Orders, upon such an occasion, and a distinction of studies, would not be strictly Academical, and might be esteemed invidious.—That some persons were to be found in the rank of Pensioners, superior in point

both of family and fortune, to several of the order above them.—That the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners, having more expended on their education, come generally better prepared in classical knowledge—had often an higher sense of honour, in consequence of their superior station—and that in St. John's College, where they were examined indiscriminately with the rest, no inconveniences, but on the contrary, great advantages, were derived from subjecting all orders to the same discipline, and from proposing to the Emulation of all who attend the same Public Lectures, the same rewards of successful application.

I will not enter into a minute discussion of the merits of this controversy. I will only beg leave to refer it to the consideration of my attentive Reader, whether, by uniting all orders in an Examination at the close of the first year,
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and by subjecting only Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners to a second Examination, every inconvenience, insisted upon by the Partizans of either side of the question, may not be happily avoided.

IV. The month of November, 1776, is thought preferable to any other season, for the first Examination of the Students, admitted as above; because, at that time, the Students of all denominations will have gone through a complete course of Lectures, with the Public Tutors, in Classics, Algebra, and Euclid; and also have had sufficient leisure, during the summer months, to review and to digest those Lectures: the initiatory course in every Society beginning in November, and ending in June following. The time of vacation will also probably be shortened, in consequence of this arrangement, as the Students will be disposed to return earlier in October than they are wont to do at present, in order the better
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to prepare themselves for the ensuing Examination.

V. An Examination in the Latin and Greek Classics, although it may afford to the industrious Student an opportunity of distinguishing himself also in composition, and in antient History, will not require so great a degree of application as may be at first supposed. Nor will a preparation for it preclude a proper measure of improvement, in the elementary parts of Geometry and Algebra.

It must be considered, that, with respect to Classical knowledge, the Student comes to the University already prepared. And if this should not universally be the case, yet the establishment of Academical Examinations will, by a reflex act, secure a greater degree of previous attention to this species of literature in each inferior seminary. This Examination also will naturally be understood to
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be restrained to such Books as are the subject of College Lectures, or most commonly are read in Schools.

But if it be the present sentiment, or experience should hereafter prove, that the Proposition is too indefinite, particular Books, or portions of Books, may be specified by subsequent regulations, as circumstances shall require.

In order more distinctly to perceive the propriety of an Examination in the Elements of Algebra and Geometry, it will be necessary to recollect, that the more immediate purpose of public Examinations is to engage the attention of youth to the customary course of College Lectures *. This course for the first year
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* I am happy in finding myself to be of the same opinion, as to the immediate end of public Examinations, with the candid Author of a Proposal, dated April the 25th, 1774, which was circulated
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consists of Lectures in Classics, in Arithmetic, the fundamental Principles of Algebra, the Elements of Euclid, and, in some few Societies, Duncan's Logic. If it is improper that our Academical Youth, particularly those of more elevated prospects, should be examined in such subjects, Lectures upon them are also improper. But no person, who reflects how much the Judgment and Invention are assisted by a temperate exercise of the rational powers in mathematical pursuits, and in how short a time, with proper application, a competency of this species of knowledge may be ob-

in the University, and inserted in many of the public Papers. I will take the liberty of extracting the following sentences from it, as containing the best illustration of my own idea. "The chief Instruction which the youth of the University receive is from the Lectures of the Tutors. If the Public Examinations can be adapted to these Lectures, they must have a constant daily influence upon the hearers, and make them more attentive to every thing they are taught."

obtained, will be tempted to wish the minutest alteration in our initiatory course.

VI. Much has been urged, in conversation, by the opponents of the projected measures, to evince, that the passion of Emulation, because sometimes found, in particular circumstances, to be productive of Envy, ought not to be encouraged in the breasts of Youth. And it has been contended, that no improvement in Literature is likely to be attended with beneficial fruits in social life, unless such improvement be the result of a full conviction of its utility.

In reply to such objections I would observe, that our present subject of debate is not concerning the best mode of educating Youth, or the best motives to improvement in Science, but concerning the best means of obviating inconveniencies, that arise from a form of Education already established, and still

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likely to prevail. Other modes of Education have their peculiar advantages, which I by no means call in question. But in a situation, circumstanced as Cambridge, where fashion and example, united with every other temptation to each ruinous and illiberal indulgence, exert an unremitted influence, in opposition to the calls of duty, and dictates of right reason, I will venture to affirm, that a very small portion of the numbers, annually admitted there, conduct themselves in such a manner, as to satisfy the reasonable expectations of their friends, without having found themselves actuated, in some one period of their residence, by the generous glow of an Emulative Spirit. A very necessary caution is however to be observed in this case; and the Syndics have, in fact, attended to it, with their usual judgment. They have proposed such incitements as will rouse the spirit of Industry in the youth of Courage and Ability, without depre-

depressing the minds of those, who with Parts less brilliant, or inferior Resolution, may still be useful and valuable members of Society.

In the present instance, it may be contended, that as each Student will afterwards have an opportunity of appearing with honour; viz. the Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner in the following November, the Pensioner and Sizar at the time of the Bachelors degree, and as the names of those, who have acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of their Examiners, will generally be known in the University, the distinctions, proposed in the Article immediately under our Consideration, are not so necessary as in the subsequent Examination of the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners in November 1777. If this should prove to be the general sentiment, many objections, that have been urged against the joining of all orders of youth

in the same Examination, would immediately disappear.

But, for my own part, I must confess, I see no objection to the establishment of this Article in its present form. If, in the judgment of some, its expediency should appear questionable, let such recollect, that the same Power, which establishes, can also abrogate or amend, as Experience, the grand Correctress of human projects, shall appear to dictate.

VII. A second Examination of the Pensioners and Sizars, whose minds at this time will begin to be agitated by the nearer prospect of their Degree, is certainly not so essential as a second Examination of the Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners; who, as it was before observed, generally leave us after a little more than two years residence. And yet I must own, that I by no means perceive the force of the objection, frequently urged against such Examination,
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viz. that a preparation for it would interfere with their preparation for the Public Schools ; in which they will be called upon to appear as disputants in the ensuing January. But I believe the general opinion at Cambridge is unfavourable to the institution of more than one Examination for the Pensioners and Sizars ; and therefore more than one is not proposed.

VIII. Classics are not proposed as the subject matter of this Examination, because they are not contained in the course of College Lectures for the second year. Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding, if I am not deceived, forms a part of this course in all our Societies. And most unquestionably with great propriety ; as it contains the principles of the soundest Logic, of the most rational Metaphysics, and of the best Morality. The Study of Natural Philosophy is not only pleasing, but is pregnant also with innumerable advantages.

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The most popular parts are chiefly insisted upon in the public Lectures, i. e. those parts which are most easy of comprehension, and bear the most intimate connection with the exigencies and elegancies of social life. The Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners hear Lectures upon its four branches, together with the Students of the inferior orders, and therefore a proficiency, proportionable to the degree of attention, which is allowed to it in the Lectures of the second year, may with reason be expected.

It must indeed be acknowledged, that the course of Study, traced out in this Proposition, as well as the system of which it is a part, is capable of improvements. Proper amendments may hereafter be suggested; and will certainly be admitted with greater ease, if, previously recommended by the example of private Societies, they be gradually introduced into the general Plan. But the foundation must first be laid in corrected

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Manners, and regularly formed habits of Attention. The securing of those important points, which I trust the Establishment of the projected Institution would enable us to accomplish, is a preliminary step, indispensably necessary in our progress towards perfection.

It is presumed that the insertion of Modern History, the only part of the proposed course, which is not provided for in the Lectures of each Society, will not appear liable to any just exceptions. An opportunity of information, deserving of the most sedulous attention, is now very generally afforded to the Nobleman and Fellow-Commoner, in consequence of the late Institution of public Lectures on this interesting subject.

IX. The incitements to literary Industry, contained in this Proposition, appear to be very judiciously suited to the case in question. Were they to be adopted by our Academical Senate,
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Cambridge would soon be rendered, by the superiority of her generous Discipline, the favoured resort of noble youth, and thus become a Seminary, to which the Nation might hereafter own itself indebted for the most illustrious Examples of public Virtue.

A book has lately been formed by the Registry of the University, for the purpose of inserting the Names of those Students, who have obtained, or shall hereafter obtain the Medals and Prizes, given by the Chancellor and University Members; or shall be otherwise distinguished for improvements in Literature. It might not be improper to transcribe the honourable Testimony, recommended by the Syndicate in the present instance, into this book.

I would further observe, with respect to the article under consideration, that our ALMA MATER has every reason to suppose, that her present CHANCELLOR

would not be inattentive to these authentic memorials of the literary merit of her sons. If other evidences were wanting of an affectionate regard, his Grace's very explicit, and truly honourable approbation of the Regulations proposed by the late Committee, is sufficient to convince us, that he is sincerely disposed to co-operate with us in every measure, which we shall judge conducive to the improvement of the noble and ingenuous Youth, intrusted to our care, in habits of Virtue and industrious Application.

XI. The Sanction, contained in the tenth Article of the Regulations, proposed by the late Syndicate, was much objected to on account of its severity. And some doubts were raised concerning the Power of the University to enforce its execution.

Without entering into the merits of this latter controversy, I shall only observe, that if Sanctions less severe will

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secure the obedience of the Student, they ought certainly to be adopted in preference to those of a more rigorous kind; and that the most lenient measures should always first be tried. As Parents and Guardians may naturally be expected to add their influence to the authority of the Tutors and the Heads of Houses, it appears very improbable, that there should be occasion for the infliction of any Academical censures whatsoever, at the first establishment of the proposed Institution; and still more improbable, that there should be a necessity for them at any future period.

It also deserves to be considered, whether the apprehensions of youth are not much more likely to be alarmed, and their chearful compliance with the proposed Regulations consequently impeded, when they perceive that an Institution, introduced for the purpose of calling forth the free exercise of their emulative Powers, assumes a gloomy, melancholy
air,

air; the unavoidable consequence of its being guarded by so severe a Penalty as Expulsion:

XIII: XIV. The mode of appointing the Examiners, recommended in these articles, was so intirely approved by the University, that it would be highly presumptuous in me to propose the slightest amendment. The time of presentation to the Vice-Chancellor is indeed unavoidably altered, on account of the proposed alteration in the time of the Examinations:

The more attentively the subject is considered, the more clearly, I am persuaded, it will appear, that Academical Knowledge would, in various ways and measures, be advanced by the proposed institution. The degree of credit, that would necessarily be annexed to the office of an EXAMINER, might be the means of inviting many of the resident Bachelors of Arts, who are approaching to

the rank of Regent Masters, to a still more animated degree of attention to each branch of useful Literature.

XV. This method of dividing the number of the Examiners is intended to have respect to the number of the Students. It is supposed, that about twenty-five or thirty Noblemen and Fellow-Commoners are admitted each year, and about an hundred or more of the inferior orders. If the former are always examined separately from the rest, there must also be a further division of those Examiners, who are assigned to the Junior year. But this may be easily settled among the Examiners themselves.

XVI. The plan of the Examination, adopted in the Resolutions of the late Syndicate, is the same with that which is pursued so successfully at the time of the Bachelors degree, and is at large described in the third and fourth editions of my former publication.

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It has however frequently been urged as an objection to the Regulations in question, that all young men are not equally qualified to stand the Terrors of a Publick Examination : and consequently that modest Merit will often remain unrewarded.

I am not surprized that persons, who are strangers to our method of conducting Public Examinations, should think that there is some force in this objection. But it is inconceivable that it should ever seriously be urged by any Gentleman, who is acquainted with the solemn trials of the Students, every half year at St. John's College, and, every quarter, in the Univerfity of Dublin.

In the former of these Seminaries, the Questions are propofed, and the Answers given, in the prefence of the whole Society ; in the latter, in the hearing of the Divifion, which confifts fometimes of between twenty and thirty perfons.

Whereas in the Examination for the Bachelors degree, which is proposed as the model of the new Examinations, being indeed the only practicable model, seldom more than six are examined together at the Moderator's Tables; which Tables stand at a distance from each other, and are entirely withdrawn from public observation. The Examination by the other members of the Senate is still more private, the Examiner and the Student always retiring to a place by themselves.

To all who shall attentively enquire into the nature and circumstances of this celebrated Examination, its constitution will appear most admirable; whether we consider the inducements it affords to diligence in the examining Parties—the guards it opposes to Partiality—or the means it provides for eliciting the most latent Merit of the Student. It is moreover conducted with singular Humanity in every case that requires it. Inasmuch that I believe scarcely a single instance
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can be produced of a person, who failed in obtaining the degree of credit he deserved, through Diffidence of his abilities; while many occur every year of those, who having failed in the public Disputations, where Effrontery is more successful, have afterwards in the Senate-House, by the universal suffrage, been invested with those accumulated Honours, which real Abilities, united with their most amiable attendant, Modesty, so justly demand.

XVII. XVIII. These Propositions are transcribed from the Resolutions of the Syndicate, altered only with respect to dates. It will be sufficient to observe that, at the time of their publication, they were very generally approved.

Having now exhibited that Form of literary discipline, which upon the maturest reflection, appears most practicable in our present circumstances—Having also endeavoured to establish the propriety

priety of each particular measure by such arguments, as to my apprehension are conclusive, I have only further to add at present, that, in compliance with the desire of many judicious and respectable friends, I intend to offer the preceding Propositions, in separate Graces, to our Academical Senate, upon some day near the close of the ensuing October: Trusting, that the same Generosity and Candour, which I have hitherto experienced, in such abundant measure, from the numerous Patrons of the proposed Institution, will continue to attend my well intentioned efforts to promote the interests of Virtue, and advance the cause of useful Learning.

July 17, 1774:

F I N I S.

